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117.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, P.O. Nimpith Ashram, South 24-Parganas
118.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kapgari, Distt. Midnapore-721505
119.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Sonamukhi, Distt. Bankura-722207
120.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vivekanad Nagar, Distt. Purulia-723147
121.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Burdwan, HFC, Distt, Durgapur-713212 (W.B.)

Plastic Waste

549. DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the harmful effects on the environment due to dumping of the plastic waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any quidelines have been issued by the Government to tighten the norms governing the import of plastic waste;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the steps proposed to be taken to ban the plastic and other such materials and encourage use of environment friendly materials like Jute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Plastic waste collected in cities in normally dumped till such time it is finally traded for materials recycling. Such plastic waste dumps have no harmful effects on the environment.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Commerce, Director General of Foreign Trade has issued guidelines for import of plastic waste. According to the guidelines, import of plastic wastes/scrap (except PET bottle waste/scrap) shall be permitted only against a licence. The description/ definition of the plastic waste/scrap for this purpose would be :

(i) Plastic scrap/waste constitute those fractions of plastics generated by various plastic processing operations or those fractions generated in the production process of plastics in a plate which have not been put to any use whatsoever and as such can be termed as virgin or new material which can be recycled into viable commercial products using standard plastic processing techniques but without involving any process of cleaning, whereby effluents are generated.

(ii) Such virgin/new plastic scrap/waste shall be permitted for import in the following forms i.e. compressed, films in cut condition, cut tape soft waste, flakes, powers and pieces of irregular shape.

(iii) Any other category of plastic scrap/wastes which are not covered by the description/ definition as given in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above shall not ordinarily be permitted.

(iv) The plastic scrap/wastes conforming to the description indicated pragraphs (i) and (ii) above would be permitted only to the actual users who have the required facility for recycling such scrap/waste and who are duly registered with the competent/ State/ Central authority and also possess clear pollution clearance certificate from the concerned State Pollution Control Board where the unit is located, as well as a capacity assessment certificate.

(v) Before the clearance of the plastic waste/ scrap, all imported consignments of such plastic scrap/waste shall be subjected to scrutiny and testing of samples. Customs authorities shall for this purpose draw a sample and send the same to the nearest laboratory/office of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) with a view to having the same analysed and verified that such imported consignments are in conformity with the description/ definition as given in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above.

(vi) Import licences issued in accordance with this Public Notice shall be subject to actual User condition and any other such condition as may be imposed by the Special Licensing Committee.

(e) No, Sir. However, eco-friendly materials are encouraged for use.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Plants in Foreign Countries

550. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred so far for the setting up of fertilizer plants in foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the name of the plants where the work has already commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, some of the public and cooperative fertilizer undertakings under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers have considered various project ideas for establishment of joint ventures abroad. Of these, the joint venture nitrogenous fertilizer project promoted by Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited in Oman in association with Oman Oil Company has made significant progress. The two undertakings have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 9.21 crore till 31.12.1996 in connection with the preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report and finalisation of various project agreements. The Committed expenditure on this account is Rs. 12.6 crore.

(c) None of these projects has reached the stage of implementation.

[English]

FCI Officers

551. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officers of the Food Corporation of India have been booked under the Anti-Corruption Act;

(b) if so, the details of each case; and

(c) the action taken against them so far ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFARIS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) On the basis of investigation done by the District Police Authorities, Rohtak (Haryana), a case FIR 10 dated 6th January, 1997 against Senior Regional Manager, FCI Haryana and other under section 420/109/199/200/120-B IPC, 7/10/55 EC Act and 3(1) (b) of prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 was registered at Police Station, Civil Lines, Rohtak, Haryana. The main allegation in the FIR is that wheat meant for open sale was allotted by Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana by taking bribe, to the traders and profiteers. The FIR names the them Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana and two other FCI Officials apart from the private parties. Exact quantity of wheat and amount involved would be known only after the investigation has been completed

(c) Two FCI officials and three others have been arrested. The FCI officials have also been placed under suspension. The services of the then Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana have been repatriated to his parent cadre. Warrant of arrest against the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana, has been issued. The matter is under investigation by the State Police Authorities. The matter has, however, been taken up with CBI also for investigation.

[Translation]

System of Carrying Night Soil

552. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system of carrying night soil on head is still in prectice in some regions of the Maharashtra State; and

(b) the steps being taken to abolish this system completely in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misuse of National Flag

553. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Flag of the country can be used for the commercial purpose and other activities; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any action against the commercial institutions using the National Flag as a 'Logo' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.